AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY: GLASS HALF EMPTY, GLASS HALF FULL OR BOTH? THE BATTLE OF INTERPRETATION

DR. DAVID CANTON

DIRECTOR

AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

WHAT IS THIS?

• How does one interpret African American History?



WHERE TO BEGIN?

- 1619, Virginia Race Based Slavery
- West Africa
- "Slave", Object or "Enslaved" Subject
- 1500s, Spanish North America, Florida Esteban, Little Steven





RECONSTRUCTION 1865-1875

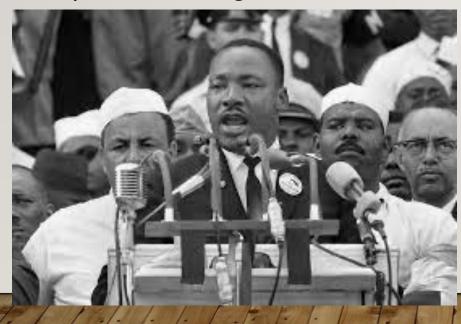
- "Lost Cause" Ku Klux Klan
- Black Reconstruction, W.E.B. DuBois 1935 "Propaganda and History"
- American History Textbooks





SANITIZED OR UNSANITIZED?

- Martin Luther King, Jr. "I Have a Dream" 1963 "Content of Character"
- MLK and Black Power?
- Memphis, TN Garbage Strike 1968





1776 COMMISSION

- "When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American as t fall heir. This note was a promise to all. men yes, black men as well as white men, would be guaranteed the unalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.
- Marin Luther King, JR. "I Have a Dream"

I HAVE A DREAM

• In a sense we've come to our nation's capital to cash a check. When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American as t fall heir. This note was a promise to all. men yes, black men as well as white men, would be guaranteed the unalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. It is obvious today that America has defaulted on this promissory note, insofar as her citizens of color are concerned. Instead of honoring this sacred obligation, America has given the Negro people a bad check, a check which has come back marked "insufficient funds" King, "I Have a Dream"

CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT ONLY FOR BLACK PEOPLE

- African American Activism and Black Institutions, Fannie Lou Hamer, MFDP
- Ella Baker, NAACP, SCLC, SNCC "More Than a Hamburger"
 Federal Government, Great Society Programs



LBJ Seeks \$962.5 Million To Fight Poverty In U.S.



Five-Point Plan Aimed To Help Nation's Youth

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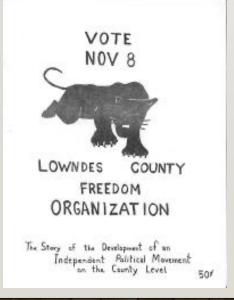
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CIVIL RIGHTS/BLACK POWER 1945-1975

- Robert Williams, Self Defense, Radio Free Dixie
- Lowndes County Freedom Organization
- Black Panther Party









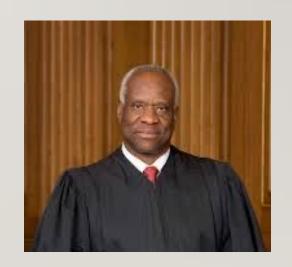
POST 1965 AMERICA SYSTEMIC RACISM OR NOT?

Black Progress, 1965 Voting Rights Act/ 2013 Shelby v Holder

Gap Stats, Housing, Education, Health Care, Income, Mortality Rates,







GAP STATS RATE VS NUMBERS

- Unemployment Rate Since 1972 Black rate twice the white rate, Higher number of unemployed whites.
- Poverty Rate, White 8% Black 17% / Twice the number of poor whites
- Home Ownership 75% White Black 43%
- Mortality Rates. White 76 years old Black 70 years old
- Income white family 81,000 Black family 52,000
- Why do these gaps exist?